

BOROUGH
OF
TENTERDEN.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR
1909.

BY
JAMES SCOTT TEW, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer for Health.



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Borough of Tenterden

AREA AND POPULATION.

The following gives the present area of the Borough and the population during the recent census years.

Area in Statute Acres.		Inhabited Houses.			Population.		
Land and Inland Water.	Inland Water only.	1881	1891	1901	1881	1891	1901
8946	21	695	705	718	3511	3429	3243

The Population of the Borough of Tenterden estimated to the middle of 1909, was 3,097, showing a decrease of 146 since the census of 1901, and of 17 on the estimated population of 1908.

The number of births registered was 71, including 29 of males and 42 of females, giving a **Birth-rate** of 22·9 per 1,000 of population, as against 24·0 in 1908, and 26·8 in 1907.

Sixty-one deaths were returned including 29 of males and 32 of females. From this number must be deducted 6 deaths of persons dying in the Union Workhouse, and belonging to the Tenterden Rural District, making a nett total of 55 deaths.

The **Death-rate** was 17·7 per 1,000 of the population, as against 10·2 in the previous year, and 13·4 in 1907.

The **Principal Epidemic Diseases** include Small-pox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping-Cough, Fever (Typhus Enteric or Typhoid Fever, and Pyrexia of uncertain origin) and Diarrhoea. It is satisfactory to again be able to record that no deaths were caused by any of these [diseases, and there is consequently no epidemic disease death-rate. The rates in 1908 and 1907 were 0·64 and 0·31 respectively.

This is the fifth annual report (out of 15 made to this Council) in which I have had to record a *nil* epidemic disease death-rate, the average rate during the 15 years having been 0·4 and the average number of deaths 1·5 figures on which the District is to be congratulated.

The Infant Mortality, that is the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 registered births was 126 as compared with 13 in 1908 and 83 in 1907.

During the year 1909, the birth-rate in **England and Wales** taken as a whole, was 25·6 per 1,000 of the population, which is 0·9 per 1,000 below the rate in 1908, and lower than the rate in any other year on record.

The death-rate in 1909 was 14·5 per 1,000, which was 0·2 per 1,000 below the rate in 1908, and lower than the rate in any other year on record.

The rate of mortality among infants under one year of age to 1,000 registered births was 109, which is 11 per 1,000 below the rate in 1908. The rate in 1909 was lower than in any other year on record.

The epidemic disease death-rate was 1·12 per 1000 living, against 1·77, 1·28, and 1·34 respectively in the three preceding years.

The death-rate and the rate of infant mortality for this district are therefore 3·2 and 17 higher than the corresponding rates for England and Wales, but in all places with a small population any slight rise in the *number* of deaths makes the rise in the rates very prominent, but, seeing that the average death-rate for the past 10 years is only 13·7, and that from infant deaths 76, the vital statistics may be regarded as satisfactory.

The birth-rate is the lowest on record (22·9), the average for the past 10 years having been 25·0.

A.—NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Under the provisions of the Infectious Disease (Notification) Acts, 1889 and 1899, the following diseases are compulsorily notifiable in the District, viz: Small-pox, Cholera, Diphtheria, Membranous Croup, Erysipelas, the disease known as Scarlatina or Scarlet Fever, and the Fevers known by any of the following names: Typhus, Enteric or Typhoid, Relapsing, Continued, and Puerperal.

Only six cases were notified as against 19 in the previous year, and consisted of 2 cases of Diphtheria, 2 of Scarlet Fever, 1 of Erysipelas, and 1 of Enteric Fever.

Diphtheria. Two non-fatal cases of this disease occurred (there were none in 1908.)

The first case was that of a boy aged $4\frac{1}{2}$ years notified on the 26th of January. I made special inquiries into this case, and found that the patient had attended the Reading Street School, and had sat next a girl from the adjoining District whose brother had died from the disease the previous month, and there appeared to be no reasonable doubt but that the disease was transmitted by personal contact.

It should be fully recognized that, although a patient's throat may have apparently recovered, the organism producing the disease may still be retained and be capable of infecting other susceptible persons. The second case was a girl aged 7 years, notified from the centre of the Borough in April.

Scarlet Fever. Only two non-fatal cases were notified, as against 17 cases and two deaths in 1908.

The first case occurred in February at St. Michaels (a boy aged 6 years.) On inquiry I found that there was a child staying on a visit in the same house as the patient, who had had the disease in the October and November previous at its own home in a suburb of London, and at the time of my

visit this child had eczema of the face and round the root of the ear and also a discharge from the ear. The patient (the boy) was peeling when notified, no doctor having before been called in, as influenza had been through the house. There is no reasonable doubt but that this case was infected from the visiting child.

The second case also occurred in February, a girl aged 4 years.

Erysipelas. Only one case of this disease was notified during the year, and was reported in March from the Union Workhouse. The patient was an adult male.

Enteric Fever. One non-fatal case (the same number as in 1908) was reported in November at a house some distance from the town. The patient—an adult male—had been abroad and in contact with a case, and from careful enquiries and comparison of dates I came to the conclusion that it was not contracted in the District.

It is satisfactory to record that no cases of **Small-pox** or **Puerperal Fever** occurred throughout the year.

Tuberculosis in all its forms caused 8 deaths during the year, as compared with 6 in 1908. Of these, 2 deaths were certified as due to Phthisis (consumption of the lungs) as against 5 in 1908. The death-rate from all forms of the disease was 2·58, and the Phthisis death-rate 0·64 per 1,000 of population.

The death-rate in this District from all forms of the disease in 1908 was 1·92, and the Phthisis death-rate 1·60 per 1,000 of population, as compared with rates of 1·58 and 1·11 for England and Wales in that year. The comparative figures for 1909 for the country generally are not yet available.

Phthisis is voluntarily notifiable in the District, but no cases were notified to me under this system.

The Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1908, provide for the compulsory notification by Medical Officers of Poor Law Institutions, and by District Poor Law Medical Officers to the Medical Officers of Health acting for Sanitary Districts of all cases of Phthisis occurring among inmates of Poor Law Institutions, and also among poor persons in receipt of Parish relief in private houses, also the notification by

Superintending Officers of Poor Law Institutions to Medical Officers of Health of the District of any person leaving an institution who has been notified as suffering from Phthisis.

Two cases were so brought before my notice during the year, viz: 1 of a poor person residing in a private house, and 1 of a person in the Union Workhouse.

In addition to the card system mentioned in my last report, I have now procured a register which is suitable and useful for keeping records of the cases.

I advised your Council to procure a supply of the following leaflets and posters for distribution, and those thought most useful were purchased:

- (a.) A card "Hints for Prevention".
- (b.) A leaflet of "Facts and Suggestions".
- (c.) An illustrated poster regarding Consumption (used by permission of the New York State Department of Health.)
- (d.) The same as an illustrated card.
- (e.) The same as an illustrated sheet.

These should be extremely useful in bringing home to a patient the precautions which should be observed in order to prevent the infection of other members of the family, and also in illustrating to healthy persons those conditions which tend to cause the disease.

Disinfection of the premises or rooms occupied by patients is carried out after death, and also when necessary in the case of notification of persons suffering from the disease, and the above literature distributed.

B.—NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

As in the previous year, no deaths were attributed to any of those infectious diseases which are not notifiable, viz., Measles, Influenza, Whooping-cough, and Diarrhœa.

Common Lodging Houses.—There are still no premises in the District which come strictly under this term.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.—There are now on the register 14 persons, a decrease of 1 on the number in the previous year, a dairyman at St. Michaels having given up business.

Six are defined as cowkeepers and dairymen, 6 as cowkeepers and purveyors, 1 as a cowkeeper only, and 1 as a purveyor of milk only.

Regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order of 1885, for the control of the premises have been in force since September 30th, 1905, and all engaged in the milk business in the Borough have been supplied with a copy.

The premises have been kept in good condition and the Sanitary Inspector states that his recommendations are carried out much more readily than formerly was the case.

Slaughterhouses.—No complaints have been made with regard to any of the 4 slaughterhouses now existing and they are conducted in a satisfactory manner.

Bye-laws with respect to these premises have been in force for some years.

Factory & Workshop Act, 1901.—There are the same number of premises on the register as in the 1908, and they are classified as follows :—

Factories :—		
Millers.	2	
Printer.	1	
Engineer.	1	
Bottlewasher.	1	
	—	5
Workshops :—		
Bakehouses.	6	
Laundries.	3	
Dressmaking } & Millinery }	6	
Saddler.	1	
Cabinet makers	2	
	—	18
		—
Total	23	
		—

The premises and the conditions under which the employees work have been found on inspection to be very good, and there is nothing calling for special comment.

Part 3, which includes Sect 22, of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, is in force having been adopted on May 1st, 1903, and came into force on the 9th. June following.

The Table required by the Home Office is appended.

Refuse Removal is undertaken by the Council, their own men being directly employed to make a weekly collection. The refuse continues to be taken to a suitable place in Coombe Lane where it is deposited and some part of it burnt.

Drainage.—The Northern sewage outfall tanks and filter beds continue to give a satisfactory effluent. Indications are not wanting that this method of treatment will have to be applied to the sewage from other parts of the Borough.

Water Supply.—The Cranbrook Water Company's supply has during the past year been laid on at six premises in the Main Street of Tenterden, and also at Bugglesden Cottage on the Biddenden Road.

Elementary Schools and School closures.—I considered it necessary to advise the closure of the Reading Street School from January 28th to February 12th on account of Diphtheria.

In October a memorandum was issued, jointly in the names of the Chief Medical Officers of the Local Government Board and the Board of Education, to Medical Officers of Health and School Medical Officers, upon Public Health Administration for the prevention of the spread of infectious diseases among children attending public elementary schools, with special reference to the circumstances in which the closure of schools or the exclusion of individual scholars may be necessary.

This important Memorandum is an enlarged and revised edition of a similar one issued by the Local Government Board in January 1908, and is divided into three parts. Part 1. deals with the code requirements for school closure and exclusion of scholars, and the co-ordination of work of the Medical Officer of Health, of the School Medical Officer, and of other School Officers. Part 2. recommends principles of action on the occurrence of infectious diseases at elementary schools, and Part 3. gives rules for action in respect of particular diseases and rules of official procedure.

It is evidently desirable that working arrangements should be satisfactorily established between the Public Health and the School Authorities, if the best results are to be obtained in the prevention of the spread of infectious disease in the schools themselves and in the scholars' homes.

Adoptive Acts. Section III of the Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1890, was adopted on May 1st, 1903, and came into force on the 9th of June of that year.

Bye-laws and Regulations.—In addition to Regulations with regard to Dairies &c. and bye-laws with regard to slaughterhouses, Bye-laws with respect to New Streets and Buildings were adopted on 21st June, 1906, and received the sanction of the Local Government Board on August 11th of that year; also Bye-laws with respect to Nuisances.

No Legal Proceedings have been necessary during the past year to enforce compliance with any matter connected with the public health.

The Health Conditions of the District at the end of the year were exceptionally satisfactory, there having only been one case of infectious disease notified during the last 8 months of the year.

Mr. Mortley's report of the sanitary work carried out by him during the year, the statistical tables required by the Local Government Board, and the table provided by the Secretary of State for recording action taken under Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, are appended.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES SCOTT TEW.

March 31st 1910.

Sanitary Report for the year ending 31st December, 1909.

33 cases as under have been dealt with—

Accumulations	-	-	4
Cesspools condemned	-	-	1
Drains obstructed	-	-	3
Drains repaired	-	-	2
Foul drains	-	-	1
Foul W.C.'s	-	-	6
Foul cesspools	-	-	2
New drains	-	-	2
Sink drains neglected	-	-	6
Drains connected to sewer		-	2
Paths repaired	-	-	3
Dwellings in bad sanitary condition			1
			—
Total			33
			—

Water Supply.

During the year 14 connections have been made by the Cranbrook and District Water Company.

The Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Regulations have been satisfactorily complied with.

W. S. MORTLEY,

Inspector of Nuisances.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1909 and previous years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.	Deaths of Non-Residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.		Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.		NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Number	Rate.	Under 1 year of age.		Rate per 1000 Births registered	At all ages.		10.	11.	Number.	Rate.		
				Number.	Rate.		Number.						Rate.	
														3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.		
1899	3279	84	25.6	10	107	59	17.9	8	6	...	53	16.1		
1900	3261	77	23.6	5	64	72	22.0	18	14	...	58	17.7		
1901	3243	86	26.5	6	69	46	14.1	16	10	...	36	11.1		
1902	3220	76	23.6	7	92	60	18.6	15	11	...	49	15.2		
1903	3202	83	25.9	8	96	42	13.1	13	9	...	33	10.3		
1904	3185	76	23.8	6	78	55	17.2	13	9	...	46	14.4		
1905	3167	83	26.2	3	36	52	16.4	19	11	...	41	12.9		
1906	3149	78	24.7	10	128	56	17.7	10	4	...	52	16.5		
1907	3131	84	26.8	7	83	54	17.2	18	12	...	42	13.4		
1908	3114	75	24.0	1	13	36	11.5	11	4	...	32	10.2		
Averages for years 1899-1908.		80	25.0	6	76	53	16.5	14	9	...	44	13.7		
1909	3097	71	22.9	9	126	61	19.6	14	6	...	55	17.7		

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District,

Union Workhouse

Is the Union Workhouse within the District?

Yes.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area of water) { 8,925 } Total population at all ages 3,243 } At end of 1901 718 }

TABLE III.

**Cases of Infectious Disease notified during
the Year 1909.**

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards
Small-pox ...	...	...	..	..	...	...	...
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria(including Membranous croup)	2	...	1	1	...	...	...
Eresipelas ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Scarlet fever ...	2	...	...	2	..	...	...
Typhus fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Enteric fever ...	1	..	...	...	...	1	...
Relapsing fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poor Law cases ...	2	...	...	...	1	1	...
Totals ...	8	...	1	3	1	3	...

ISOLATION HOSPITAL—Nil.

SCHEDULE B.

1909.

Causes of Death.	All Ages.	Under 1	1-5.	5-15.	15-25	25-65.	65 and upwards.	Deaths in Public Institutions in the district whether of Residents or Non-residents
Small-pox ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Typhus Fever ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Epidemic Influenza ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping-cough ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria Membranous Croup	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Croup ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Asiatic Cholera ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoea, Dysentery ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Epidemic or Zymotic Enteritis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteritis ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Other continued Fevers</i> ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
.....
.....
.....
Erysipelas ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Other septic diseases</i> ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
.....
.....
Intermittent Fever and } Malarial Cachexia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculosis of Meninges ..	3	1	1	1	..	..	..	..
Tuberculosis of Lungs	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
Other forms of Tuberculosis	3	1	..	..	1	1	..	..
Alcoholism	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Cancer	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
Premature Birth ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Developmental Diseases	6	5	1	..	..	..	..	..
Old Age	8	..	..	..	..	..	8	7
Meningitis ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Inflammation and Softening } of Brain	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Organic Diseases of Heart ...	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Acute Bronchitis ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Chronic Bronchitis ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Lobar (Croupous) Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lobular (Broncho-)Pneumonia	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Diseases of Stomach ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Obstruction of Intestines ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Tumours and Other Affections } of Female Genital Organs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Accidents and Diseases of } Parturition	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Deaths by Accident or } Negligence	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Deaths by Suicide ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Deaths from Ill-defined causes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
All other Causes ..	23	2	1	1	..	7	12	5
ALL CAUSES	55	9	3	3	1	13	26	14

TABLE V.
INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1909.
Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under
One Year of Age.

Causes of Death.		Under 1 Week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All Causes.	Certified	...	4	...	...	1	5	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	8
	Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
i. Common infectious Diseases.	Small-pox	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Chicken-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Scarlet Fever	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Diphtheria (including Membranous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Croup	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Whooping Cough	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
ii. Diarrhoeal Disease <i>See Notes to Table IV.</i>	Diarrhoea all forms	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Enteritis, Muco-enteritis	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Catarrh	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
iii. Wasting Diseases.	Premature Birth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Congenital Defects	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	<i>See notes to Table IV</i>	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Injury at Birth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Want of Breast-milk, Starvation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
iv. Tuberculous Diseases	Tuberculous Meningitis	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
	<i>See notes to Table IV</i>	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Tuberculous Peritonitis: Tabes	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Mesenterica	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
	<i>See Notes to Table IV</i>	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
v. Other Causes.	Erysipelas	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Syphilis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Rickets	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Convulsions	...	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
	Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Laryngitis	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Pneumonia	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Suffocation, overlying	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Other causes	4	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
		4	..	..	1	5	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	9

Population estimated to middle of 1909, 3,097

Births in the year { legitimate 62
illegitimate 9
Deaths „ { legitimate infants 7
illegitimate „ 2

Deaths from all causes at all ages 55.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1909.

on the administration of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, in connection
with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES, AND HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION of FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES

*Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors
of Nuisances.*

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspection. (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories ... (Including Factory Laundries)	5	.....	.....
Workshops ... (Including Workshop Laundries)	18	.....	.....
Workplaces ... (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	...	.....	.....
Total	23		

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Nil.

Section 22 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890,
has not been adopted.

3.—HOME WORK.

Nil.

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year. (1)					Number. (2)
Important classes of work-shops, such as workshop bakehouses may be enumerated here.	Bakehouses	...	...	...	6
	Laundries	...	...	...	3
	Dressmakers, Milliners and Tailors			...	6
	Saddler	...	...	..	1
	Cabinet Makers	..	..	...	2
Total number of workshops on Register					18

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Nil.

*J. S. TEW,**Medical Officer of Health.**March 31st, 1910.*

